



ORAL HEALTH ACCESS COUNCIL

August 9, 2012

Janette Casillas  
Executive Director  
The California Managed Risk Medical Insurance Board  
1000 G Street, Suite 450  
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Transition of HFP Subscribers to Medi-Cal Draft Transition Plan

Dear Ms. Casillas,

The Oral Health Access Council (OHAC) appreciates the opportunity to comment regarding the Transition of Healthy Families Subscribers to Medi-Cal Draft Transition Plan (the Plan). OHAC is a multi-lateral, non-partisan effort directed toward improving the oral health status of the state's traditionally underserved and vulnerable populations. With a membership of over 50 organizations representing a diversity of oral health stakeholders, OHAC has become California's most broad-based and unified voice for oral health.

OHAC is very supportive of the Plan's proposal to hold joint and coordinated meetings between MRMIB, DHCS, and the Health, Dental, and Vision plans, and to conduct a network analysis. We appreciate the focus on maintaining continuity of plans for children where possible, but there should also be a strong focus on continuity of *provider*, not just continuity of plan.

Providing for comprehensive dental care is essential to ensuring a successful transition, and we strongly urge that adequate dental care be a priority in the Plan. Cutting back on dental care for children will only cause additional cost to the state in the long term, as emergency room visits for preventable dental problems cost the State \$55 million in 2007.<sup>1</sup>

#### Recommendation

OHAC strongly recommends that MRMIB and DHCS work towards ensuring that children, once transitioned, will have access to dental care by expanding the network of private providers to cover the influx of children.

We look forward to working with DHCS and MRMIB to ensure that dental access for children continues to be a priority. If you have any questions about these recommendations, please contact, Sean C. South at (916) 440-8170 or [ssouth@cpca.org](mailto:ssouth@cpca.org). Thank you for your attention and consideration.

Sincerely,

*Sean C. South*

Oral Health Access Council

<sup>1</sup> Emergency Department Visits for Preventable Dental Conditions, a report by the California Healthcare Foundation <http://www.chcf.org/publications/2009/03/emergency-department-visits-for-preventable-dental-conditions-in-california#ixzz1jm7RXanD>.